

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). A method ~~of directing the expansion of an expandable structure within a bone~~ comprising

providing a tool having an elongated axis, the tool comprising a body that extends along the elongated axis and includes a wall that peripherally extends completely about the elongated axis and terminates at a distal end, the tool also comprising a projection that extends outward beyond the distal end of the body along the elongated axis and that forms an elongated platform that peripherally extends less than completely about the elongated axis,

~~introducing~~ providing an expandable structure having a longitudinal axis, ~~the expandable body being sized and configured, upon expansion, to form a void in cancellous~~ into the bone;

~~introducing a substantially rigid surface into the tool and the expandable structure into a bone~~ having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone;

positioning the elongated platform ~~and~~ along the longitudinal axis of the expandable structure between the expandable structure and a region of cancellous bone within the bone; and

forming a void in another region of cancellous bone within the bone by expanding the expandable structure within the bone with the elongated platform positioned to serve as an expansion barrier that directs entire expansion of the expandable structure away from the elongated platform and toward the other region of cancellous bone.

2 (Canceled).

3 (Currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein during the expanding step the expandable structure compress at least a portion of a cancellous bone ~~within the bone~~ in the other region.

4 (Currently amended). . The method of claim 1, wherein during the ~~expansion step~~ expanding the expandable structure displaces at least a portion of a cortical bone within the bone.

5 to 10 (Canceled).

11 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of contracting the expandable structure and removing the structure from the bone,~~ and introducing a filler material into the ~~cavity~~ void.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11, wherein the filler material comprises bone cement.

13 to 21 (Canceled).

22 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the body comprises a hollow member.